



AN
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
 OF THE
Important Battle of the Nile,
 Fought on the first and second of August, 1798,
 BETWEEN THE
BRITISH FLEET,
 COMMANDED BY
 Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, K. B.
 And the **FRENCH FLEET**, commanded by
VICE-ADMIRAL BRUEYS,
 In Bequieres Bay, on the Coast of Egypt.

This Account was sent by a young Man, who was on
 board the *Majestic*, of 74 Guns, to his Mother in
 Whitehaven, with the particulars of the Cruise, previ-
 ous to their falling in with the Enemy.



AN

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT, &c.

ON the 24th of May, our orders came on board (we were then laying in Cadiz Bay) to sail in company with nine ships of the Line, to join Admiral Nelson in the Mediterranean Sea, in about three weeks time, we fell in with Admiral Nelson, blue at the Mizzen, in the Vanguard, near Toulon, having with him the Orion, Alexander, the Leander, and the Mutine Brig of war; our fleet then consisted of thirteen Ships of the Line, one fifty gun ship, and a brig of sixteen guns; the following is a list of the ships—the Vanguard, seventy four guns, Admiral Nelson; Orion, ditto, Alexander, Audacious, Bellerophon, Culloden, Defence, Goliath, Swiftsure, Majestic, Theseus, Minotaur, Zealous, Leander, fifty, and the Mutine Brig of sixteen guns. From Toulon we sailed to the Isles of Corsica, in quest of the enemy, but not hearing of them there we continued our course upwards, as we well knew the French had sailed from Toulon, we then went through a very narrow passage, one ship only could

through at a time, with a Pilot on board, the name of, the place is Faro Missina : A vast concourse of people came alongside of our ships in boats, and expressed great surprise at seeing such a fleet of large ships, for it was never known in the memory of any person living at this time, for a fleet of men of war to be seen there ;—they were overjoyed when they understood we were in search of the French fleet, and informed us, that they were seen off, a few days before we arrived, and had gone to Malta ;—we fell in with a brig, and she gave us intelligence that the French fleet had sailed for Egypt. Our Admiral being determined to find them, if possible, steered his course for Alexandria, in Egypt : but to his great surprise and mortification, the French fleet had not been seen there at all ; we then steered our course down again, and coasted round the island of Candia, and then put into the island of Syracuse, in Sicily, where we wooded and watered, being much in want of the same, also we took a good stock of fresh beef to sea with us ;—and during the time we were lying there, we gained fresh intelligence

that the French fleet, after having captured Malta, and garisoned the island with French troops, had sailed for Alexandria, and arrived there four days after we left it. We then sailed from Syracuse on the 24th of July, and on our passage the Galloden captured a brig laden with wine,—she was a Transport belonging to, and on her passage to the French fleet, she confirmed the intelligence that we received in Syracuse. On the 1st of August, at 4 o'clock P. M. the Zealou being the look-out ship for that day made the signal for an enemy's fleet laying at an anchor, off the mouth of the river Nile, above Alexandria, the enemy's fleet consisted of 1 three decker of one hundred and thirty guns, called the L'Orient; 5 Eighty-fours; 7 Seventy-fours; 4 Frigates; 1 Brig, Cutter; and several Gun Boats; our Admiral made the signal to clear the ships for action we hauled our wind about 5 o'clock, in order to get well to the windward of the enemy's fleet, we then bore down upon them at six o'clock: our Admiral hoisted the Bloody Flag at his main-top gallant-mast head, and made a signal

for the ships to form a line, in the best manner they could, and engage the enemy as they came up; the head-mast ship was the Goliah, which began to engage the enemy, at half an hour after six in the evening, and our ship began to engage near 7 o'clock; during the time we were bringing the ship to an anchor, with springs on our cables, we had several men killed and wounded, for we began to engage in five fathom water, within pistol shot of each other; I cannot relate every particular that happened in the action, as I had to attend my duty. Early in the action, one of the French Eighty fours came from her moorings, intending to bring up along-side of us, broad-side too, but thank God, they were frustrated in their scheme, for they were brought up, stem on our starboard quarter, with her Jib-boom before our Mizzen Rigging, they were not able to bring a gun to bear on us, but small arms. (By these however we had several men killed) she likewise made several attempts to board us, but they were repulsed with great loss on their side, our great guns did her incredible mischief,

as every shot nearly raked her force and aft; she remained in that situation near an hour: she was so terribly shattered that we could see thro' their bows very plain, she either cut or slipped her cables, and drifted away from us, and run aground; another two decker, an Eighty-four, made an attempt to board us on our bow, for her Taffril was right under our Bowspirit, but they were soon repulsed by our Marines and Boarders;

The L'Orient, of one hundred and thirty guns, engaged us on our Larboard Bow; about 10 o'clock, as near as I can learn, she took fire in her main chains, and continued burning with great fury till 11 o'clock, when she blew up, close to us, the explosion was terrible; then we had an Eighty-four engaging us on our Larboard side, but we soon totally dismantled her; and then two more French ships came to her assistance, they were all three blazing on us at once; we should have had a narrow escape from a watery tomb, had not the Alexander come to our assistance; the Alexander had been one of the look-out ship that day, and had got so far to leeward, that she could

not come into the engagement till late
 in the evening; she was coming into
 the fleet from sea, but seeing our ship
 hotly engaged with three others of su-
 perior force, she came down to our as-
 sistance, and engaged the enemy with
 great gallantry; about 3 o'clock we
 ceased firing on both sides; the action
 was again renewed between 4 and 5
 o'clock in the morning, and continued
 near an hour, when it concluded. We
 took nine sail of the Line, one three-
 masted schooner blew up during the action, one
 frigate on shore sunk and blew up an-
 other, which was set on fire by the ene-
 my after striking to us, a Cutter-brig
 likewise blew up, and several gun boats
 were destroyed belonging to the enemy
 during the action; two sail of the Line
 and two Frigates, were all that escaped
 out of their whole fleet, and they much
 disabled; our ship suffered very much
 in the action, besides the loss of her
 main and mizen-mast, she received a
 great many shot in her Hull, but thank
 God, she has a good bottom; we had
 10 men killed, 143 wounded, and 21
 have died since of their wounds; our

Captain fell in the early part of the action, likewise our Boatswain, & a Midshipman were killed; the *Alexander Bellerophon*, and *Majestic* suffered the most. To give you an accurate list of the killed and wounded on board of each ship is not in my power. The 2^d of August, we were employed in clearing the wreck, and then we proceeded to get up Jury-masts, and rigging the ships for sea; seven of the prizes were dismasted; and on the 15th of August having six of the Prizes refitted, we proceeded to sea, being in all thirteen ships of the Line, (seven English and six French) we left Admiral Nelson with six of our ships, and three prizes, laying at an anchor, off the mouth of the River Nile, with an intent to intercept anything that came down the Nile, as it belongs to the French. We are now bound to Old England, once more but owing to the ships being in such a shattered condition, it will be a long time before we reach England, unless we meet with a very favourable wind. We had on board at the time of the action. 561 people



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